

• Abroad •

London. As part of the Labor Party's effort to find a new *raison d'être* to replace outmoded orthodox Marxism, Richard Crossman, a Labor M.P. and leading left-wing intellectual, has written *Labor in the Affluent Society*. His argument—as the verbal echo in the title suggests—is a British variant of the doctrine lately advanced in the U.S. by J. Kenneth Galbraith and Walter Lippmann. The affluent society, thanks to Keynes, has solved the problem of severe cyclical depression. But while it remains in private hands, “public policy” and the security and needs of the community are subordinated to consumer gratification and to the interests of the oligopolies that pander to the consumer. National strength and growth are thus sacrificed. Meanwhile the Soviet system, putting public policy first and “inherently more efficient,” advances more rapidly in internal power, and becomes more attractive to the uncommitted nations. The only way to meet the challenge is for the state—now confronting the oligopolies as the medieval king did his overweening barons—to take charge: state planning and control; socialism.

Bonn. As in France, “whiskey-soda,” which was almost unheard of in Germany before the war, is becoming a major business, political and social drink. Imports of whiskey have tripled since 1956. “Whiskey certificates” are a favorite speculation, and have been showing 30 per cent annual profit. There is even a mutual fund—the Asig Whiskey Investment Trust—for small speculators who cannot afford the full certificates, which are offered only in multi-liter denomination.

St. Brieuc, Brittany, France. The local *Syndicat d'Initiative* (Chamber of Commerce) is organizing a campaign throughout the Breton coast to abandon the French national meteorological service in favor of a local weather station that would do its own forecasting for the area. The Briochains are furious with what they claim to be biased weather reports for Brittany put out from Paris. They feel that forecasts from a local service will prove much more attractive to potential tourists to “the Emerald coast,” as they have christened their ancient shoreline in an effort to compete with France's other coasts of Azure, Silver and Gold.

Moscow. The *Manchester Guardian*, which has long favored East-West coexistence, sent James Morris to Russia during the pre-Summit month. In one dispatch he commented on the problem of belief: “You must take on trust . . . the staggering Soviet claims of industrial expansion, rocketry, atomic energy, agricultural initiative, and all the bragging that sometimes overcomes your Intourist guide. You cannot check for yourself. . . . There is no way of confirming the truth [of Russian statistics]. Wiser men than I am accept them as generally accurate, and vigorously propagate the vision of the new, kindlier, irresistible Soviet Union that so dominated my own think-

ing when I first flew to Moscow. To fools, though, is reserved the privilege of rushing in, and after a couple of weeks in Russia I will be bold and brash. I do not believe all the Russians say. I sniff at their statistics. There seems to me something illusory, deceptive, misleading in the air of Russia today, something that niggles at my intuitions and sharpens my skepticism. Do you know that momentary smiling hush that overcomes the dinner table when some not very bright member of the family is having his leg pulled? Well, it feels to me a little like that.”

Ankara. Many of the more responsible opponents of the Menderes regime, aware of the domestic disintegration that has been brought by the manner of his overthrow, are made uneasy by a factor generally overlooked in the West. In the southern regions of the Soviet Union there are more ethnic Turks, most of them also Moslems, than in Turkey itself. Although these Soviet Turks, like all non-Russians in the Soviet Union, are doubly oppressed by the Kremlin, they have advanced to a higher literacy rate, and perhaps on average a higher economic level, than the Anatolian peasants. A considerable number have been trained in Communist universities and revolutionary institutes. Inevitably any weakening inside Turkey lowers its resistance to Soviet Turkic influence and agents.

Katmandu, Nepal. Reports from Tibetan refugees and couriers indicate that the strategy of the resurgent Freedom Fighters is to disrupt communications between Tibet and China. At Shekar Dzong, 50 miles north of Mt. Everest on the main Lhasa-Shigatse-Gartok-Sinkiang highway, as well as a crossroad leading south to Nepal, they have thrown a block that has held against large-scale Chinese attacks. They are also active at Saka to the west, Gyantse near the Nepal border, and north of Lhasa on the roads to Szechwan and Tsinghai. At Khambajong and elsewhere, Chinese soldiers are said to have attacked their officers.

Moscow. Over the past 20 years the Soviet collective farms have amalgamated into larger and larger units. From 1940-56 the number of collectives dropped from 236,000 to 84,000. Today it is down to 50,000. These units are now so large that they often include 20 or more small villages. Khrushchev is once more trying to push the often-talked-about policy of transforming the farms into factories, and consolidating the villages of each farm-factory into a single “agro-town.” Through such a change the peasants—always such a hard nut for Communism to crack—would be changed into proletarians.

Warwick, England. One immigrant group that has most unexpectedly become established in England is comprised of the descendants of Chinese and Indian muntjacs brought over by the Duke of Bedford at the beginning of this century. The muntjac is a shy, charming small deer, about 20 inches high at full growth, which has a bark rather like a dog's. They are now living in the woods of the middle and southern counties, and are expected to spread westward and to increase rapidly in numbers.

Copyright of National Review Bulletin is the property of National Review Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.